DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 404 423 UD 031 545

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TITLE Politics, Race, and Schools: Racial Integration, 1954-1994. Studies in Education/Politics Series Volume 2.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-8153-1766-2
PUB DATE 97
NOTE 340p.
AVAILABLE FROM Garland Publishing, Inc., 717 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2500, New York, NY 10022; e-mail: info@garland.com; http://www.garlandpub.com ($49).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Conflict; *Educational History; Elementary Secondary Education; Federal Legislation; Government Role; Philanthropic Foundations; Political Influences; *Politics; Private Schools; Public Schools; Racial Bias; *Racial Integration; *School Desegregation; Social Change; *Urban Areas
IDENTIFIERS *Dayton Public Schools OH

ABSTRACT

The political controversies surrounding the racial desegregation of public and private schools are explored using the example of Dayton (Ohio) and its 40-year effort to overcome segregation. The book examines ways business leaders, clergy, elected officials, judges, teachers, and school administrators reacted to challenges to patterns of student attendance over the years. In Dayton, as in most of the country, the developments took strange patterns as the participants changed their minds about what they wanted and tried to use education to reform society. While the racial desegregation of schools should have been a controversy about the best way to make one nation out of many peoples, it became a conflict between the authority of the Federal government and the principle of local control. The sections of the discussion are titled: (1) "Part I: Federal Courts, School Desegregation, and Religion: The National Context"; (2) "Part II: Racial Desegregation in Dayton, Ohio: City Government, Schools, and Churches"; and (3) "Part III: Curriculum, Caring, and Social Reform." In addition to its analysis of how curriculum changes have affected desegregation, the text analyzes the role of private philanthropies in education. Each chapter contains references. (SLD)

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